Formerly THE NEWS LETTER of the College English Ass

AL XV-No. 3

Published at Northampton, Mass., Editorial Office, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

March, 1953

FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING

There are certainly courses in aglish for which a man may be adily trained rather than educat-Remedial English, courses in ding speed and comprehension, to a considerable extent the sic courses in expository writing mechanical courses in which teacher is largely concerned the teaching more or less fixed swers. I believe that any reamably intelligent graduate stunt can be trained to follow a syllism in such courses and that the us in such courses, and that de-tmental supervision can help m with various pedagogical sug-tions. But only to the extent helping him to achieve mini-m standards. Beyond the min-

Teach Questions But aside from these few courses which we teach answers, the

he must stand on his own as cher and as a man of humane

himself. It seems relevant there-fore to consider some ways in which I have observed literature to be mistaught by the teachers of

Neither History nor Theology In the first place I submit that literature in our universities is an literature in our universities is an art form which is taught primarily as either history or theology. Let me say that I have no argument with the historian and no dream of getting the clergymen out of the teaching profession. All teachers are clergymen and should be. The problem, as I see it, is to purify their faith.

You will recall that Dante punished violence against art along with violence against God. I see the following ways in which this violence is commonly perpetrated.

First, I am afraid the history of Teach Questions
It is a marked the history of ideas course is traveling away from the we teach answers, the iculum is largely made up of toward it. After all it has produced the Syntopicon and with the work of literature rather than toward it. After all it has produced the Syntopicon and with Yeats I will ask "Had she another intelligently taught without serious is the breadth of compression to other art forms.

The good teacher is an articulation of the said of articulation of the English teacher and his true training.

I am arguing, that is, that our is curriculum of the School of function and I doubt that it can made available in any course for eachers established by the English partment.

Beyond the Minima

There are certainly courses in aglish for which a man may be dily trained arther the man may be made available to take care of which a man may be dily trained arther to be mistaught by the teachers of the eachers of the true training and then leaves the true training and then leaves the true training and then leaves to the content and to the literature to the true training and then leaves the true training and then leaves the true training and then leaves to the content and to the literature to the true training and then leaves the true training.

I am arguing, that is, that our training are raised and transmitted. These questions are expressed in the diliterature to the trainin

what the poem expresses.

Any teacher of history worth his salt would be aware of the absurdity of teaching that di-di-Dah—means FATE KNOCKING AT THE DOOR. Such a paraphrase has no musical meaning, and I doubt that it has any meaning. Yet I consistently observe a similar kind of mis-teaching wherehy the norm becomes some sort of similar kind of mis-teaching where-by the poem becomes some sort of paraphrase that I am certain would convulse the defenseless au-thor. I ask the paraphrasers therefore to defend themselves against Yeats' great statement:

O body swayed to music, O bright-ening glance, How can we know the dancer from the dance?

Unless the poem is allowed to exist in its own context, there is no ap-proach to literature.

way of thinking and being.

Admittedly we are laboring under a difficulty here. Nobody writes literature in order to have it taught. The classroom is perse a violence to art. The only apology the teacher can offer for this violence is to regret it and to try to make the classroom that large and airy castle of the mind which it can ideally become when a Kittridge or a Bredvold occupies it.

Moral Misjudgments

Finally, and speaking to fellow clergymen, I fear a tendency in teaching which I can best locate by anecdote. In a recent discussion group some one happened to draw a comparison between Odysseus and Hemingway's Colonel in Across the River and into the Trees.

Immediately the voice rose crying: "How can you make any such comparison? Homer leaves us with a POSITIVE AFFIRMATION OF HOPE but Hemingway is NOTHING BUT A NEGATIVIST." (I am quoting exactly.)

Is NOTHING BUT A NEGATIVIST." (I am quoting exactly.)

This is of course a moral statement. And certainly I have no objection to morality in art. Of course good art is moral; it is so overwhemingly and always moral that the moralist who is not sufficiently confused by it to avoid such table-thumping nonsense about Positive Affirmations, is no moralist at all. All but had art is affirmative; it asserts that making the art form is a better richer truer and deeper way of living than not creating that form. The fact that I happen to paint my vision of value with no clothes on whereas the art historian was brought up a Quaker and thinks that value can only exist under four petiticoats cannot subtract from the perception of the Professor.

Art Makes Happen

Art Makes Happen

The tenet of the faith I am triing to advance here is simply the must not be judged it. A dance that sets ne of interpreting the viscouly incidentally it he Fall of Troy. Lart it must achieve a equivalent for the rated by the

of Troy. It does not talk about makes happen.

What is the morality of art?
Tennyson's In Memoriam a me poem, professor? Could Tenny (Continued on Page 3, Col. 4)

Faculty Committee on Teaching

PROFESSOR Abbott said, "Nobody ever taught me how to teach, Except one man: Go into the classroom with three times more Than there's time to say, he told me, and forget yourself."

Abbott was Chairman of the Committee. We met in September, Late in September, when the first campus leaves were being raked, But after the freshmen, and before the new instructors, young, With new tweeds and degrees.

The Faculty Committee on Teaching.

He said, "I used to tear up my lecture-notes, and try never To give the same lecture the same. Now I don't even make notes. Students talk to me. They come and sit in my office, and talk. For my dullest but necessary lectures, I wear my brightest tie."

Seven instructors had been summoned. Half an hour from now The Committee would discuss with them teaching.

Notes? Neckties?

Dr. Clement said, "Study-plans. Frequent examinations. Tell them When they come in, that this only is safety, order, and policy.'

The autumn grew later as he spoke.

"There are," said Spinney, "Socio-economic evaluations to be made boom-boom of literature." October seemed much nearer, and the bare trees of November. "I lend them books," Abbott said. "They usually bring them back." (Continued on Page 3, Col. 1)

CRITIC CEA

Published at 15 Armory Street
Northampion, Massachusetts
Editor
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cond-class matter Janua t office, Northampton, August 24, 1912. pyright 1953 by the the College

SECEA

Group Thinking and Personal Testament

General crisis induces illusions of crisis wherever one looks. It brings to the tongue the apocalyp-tic phrase. Yet ours is advisedly called a time of major crisis for the traditional English department. the traditional English department. For a listing of the chief simples making up this compound crisis, see "GHQ and Field Notes," Dec., 1951, Critic, and "Where Do We Go from Here?" ibid. Right now, one big contributing cause: the glacial force of the gradual shift from college education for the few to "higher education for all."

Viable Vegetation and the Glacial Force

The danger is that, instead of flowing around and leaving intact the still viable established regimen of our English departments, this glacial force will uproot it, drag it along till it is pulverized—at least worn beyond recognition, and deposited as so much debris. Hence our master dilemma.

We are committed-some joyfully, some reluctantly—to the glacial mass movement of education in breadth (a quantitative, dynamic, activistic impetus). Yet we ic, activistic impetus). Yet we also have an inescapable need for education in depth and height. To help provide essential intellectual leadership, we need a qualitative accent in democratic higher eduaction. Otherwise, as Matthew Arnold pointed out, we run the risk of inadequate or improper leadership, and our free society is jeopardized.

In Rotterdam, at an international conference of students and professors almost three years ago, I in ad in additional transfer of the source is source is the source in the source is the source is the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source is the source is the source is the source is the source in the source is the source in the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source in the source is the source in the source in the source in the source in the source

porary higher education in the united States. (Cf. "Higher Ed- a substantial instance." ucation for Citizenship: A Larger View," Bulletin Assoc. of Am. Col-View," Butletin Assoc. of Am. Colleges, Dec., 1950; reprinted as Dec. 1950 Critic supplement.) In his Education and Liberty, Dr. James Conant has recently put his finger on the same crux as urgently needing resolution.

SECEA Fronts Dilemma

In its executive councils, in its In its executive councils, in its conferences and reports, the Southeastern College English Assocation has been firmly fronting this master dilemma, and has been testing the range and limits of accommodation between the two components of the second secon nents creating this central crux— the possibilities of synchronous development or dialectic synthesis. Just as it has already gained the commendation of Cleanth Brooks, this regional affiliate deserves our general attention and thanks.

Discussed Feb. 21 at the 1953 Discussed Feb. 21 at the 1953 SECEA conference, Alabama Polytechnic Institute (Paul Haines, Program Chairman; Celeste Wine, vice pres., Sarah Herndon sec'ytreas.), the modestly designated 45-page "Tentative Report" of the ongoing SECEA project on the

Available on request (to be put to SECEA President Edward Foster), it is an intensively workedout contribution to current think-ing on higher education in a democratic society. It searchingly examines the problem of professorial responsibilty, integrity, and efficacy in an epoch of mass education.

Life-Blood of Master Spirits

This lively analytic chronicle of a sustained process in cooperative thinking stays close to the regional situation and regional needs; it returns benefits to its source; yet its results are relevant to the rest of our Society.

The report of the completed project, it is hoped, will be made availto all concerned with the health and spiritual wealth of our American academic community. Meanwhile, we must be content to Meanwhile, we must be content to offer here the final section of the interim report. It is the project director's own eloquent and admirable personal testament. Of it may be justly said what has been said of Samuel Johnson's Preface to Sheksmere It is make. to Shakespeare. It is manly .- M.

Our Brother's Keeper?

On June 20, 1952, the MLA received a grant of \$120,000, to be spent over a three-year period for a constructive inquiry into the rôle which foreign languages should play in American life. Among us in English there has been general joy at this piece of family fortune. Partly this has been altruistic.
Partly this has been altruistic.
Partly it has been prompted by the
feeling that what is good for the
member is good for the whole. Yet
teasing doubts have flecked the smooth felicitations. There have been sibling complaints of favoritism and fears of future rivalry. Neutralists have merely shrugged their shoulders, indifferently dismissing the whole affair.

"This We Are For," the propo This we Are For, the proposed CEA Five Point Program (Feb. Critic), is neither indifferent non negative. Nor does it rest on gueralities such as: what is good for eraities such as: what is good for the part is good for the whole It affirms, specifically, that our ef-fectiveness as English teachers in closely related, in terms of teach-ing process, to competence in for-eign languages. "We should know," runs the proposed credo, "relate literatures well, at least two a them in their own language." An by implication, it affirms a paralle relationship between learning English and mastering foreign liter

Speaking for those administer ing the MLA Rockefeller grant i foreign languages, Prof. Willia Riley Parker, MLA executive se retary, has assured us he won welcome full and frank discussion in The CEA Critic, of the iss posed above.

We, in turn, invite your co ment. Our columns are open. A we our brother's keeper? Is l ours? For better or worse, wh is our stake, as college Engli teachers, in the now well launch inquiry made possible by the Rod efeller grant?-M.

The Battle of the "Levels"

Glancing back to the battle of the "levels," I propose that in some later conference or inquiry, SECEA should consider these is-

Are we willing to teach the middle sixty per cent of the stumiddle sixty per cent of the stu-dents who now come to us in the general course (usually "sopho-more lit.") with understanding of their abilities, interests, and gen-eral need for literature? This is not a rhetorical question. It is a real issue and we west our time not a rhetorical question. It is a real issue, and we waste our time in thought about goals or planning courses if many of us are simply unwilling to approach such inquiries in a spirit which promises a realistic solution. And, again, there is no gain in invoking the principles of general education if a majority of us are opposed to them.

2. What is the rôle of the teacher of literature—chiefly fidelity to subject, chiefly adaptation of sub-ject to students? Chiefly, as the omnipotent one who can "make" omnipotent one who can "make" literature interesting; chiefly as stage setter and discussion leader? Can we find sensible points between these extremes at which we can function with confidence and self-respect and with satisfaction to our students?

Sock or Buskin?

There is one other question which exists at a more deeply personal level, one which I must touch humbly and only insofar as it has trou-bled and concerned me. To make communication easier, I approach it within the concepts of tragedy and comedy, asking: Is mine the tragic or the comic rôle? I remember the hero of Sophoclean tragedy -noble, proud, stubborn; nobly, proudly, stubbornly challenging fate-and dying. There is also the hero of high comedy. He does not lack courage, but he possesses in addition wit, flexibility, and resourcefulness. He lives and flour"Don't Hell 'em Too Much"

As a person, I lean toward the tragic side. At least I have felt tragic side. At least I have felt that my subject, literature, must be a very great one; that I must rise to its greatness, must transmit that greatness to others—whatever their resistance may be. In a sophomore course for engineering students, I have in the past used nine periods for *The Divine Come*dy, using every ounce of myself to make the whole vast conception of Inferno, Purgatory and Paradise come to life in the minds and hearts of students, many of whom were unready for even a moderately mature sermon or a very simple allegory.

Meanwhile, most of my col-leagues were content if their charges carried away a "gentle-man's knowledge" of Dante; and the wise course director was say-ing to them, "Men, don't hell 'em too much." I have tried in various ways to push the course toward a more probing analysis of "enduring values" than most students and teachers desire. The omnipotent teacher of the great subject which could lead us out of muck and vulgarity and mechanization into a -I humane and noble way of lifehave tried to be such a person for many years.

The Not So Golden Mean

But I also looked at my blue books, talked with my students several years after they left my courses, tried to discover what aspect of my treatment of Dante was fixed in consciousness. In pedagese, I tried to measure prog-ress toward the goal which I had set before them-not SECEA's relatively modest "enjoyment" with a touch of "wisdom"-but appropriation of the greatness of great literature. How far had they gone? The middle group had gained almost nothing, to tell the truth, at least nothing closely related to my (Continued on Page 7, Col. 3)

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FROM THE ANNUAL MEETING (Continued from page 1)

"I had a professor, —" Rockwood said, and stopped. Abbott said, "Yes, Mr. Rockwood? We all did."

"I thought I'd like to be like him. It's a funny way of earning a living," Rockwood said, "teaching. But sometimes, up on the third floor, when we're between classes, Grabbing a smoke, or talking, someone says, 'What about Haley, Do any of you have him?' and yes, and someone says, 'Good man.'"

Outside the office window, trees were still leaved, unleaving, Dappling in the cool air a shouldering shadow-pattern on the walks. The columns white, the bricks red, the grass green, the girls And books and cars moving, sky over all.

September. The new year.

We thought, How are we going to tell these new ones about good men?

"What about the dumb damned, and the deans, and papers, and the pay?" Uncomfortable was the word for Smith, at lunch, or in a meeting. "What about the book I'm not writing? Shall we talk about the pay? About faculty wives? About no sabbaticals? Shall we tell the truth?"

Abbott reamed his pipe, combed his sandy hair with his left hand.

"Professor Abbott, do you remember reading the first books you read? Do you remember the feeling? I almost do, but I'm forgetting. Now that I'm on this committee, I'm trying to think back, way back Past footnotes."

Abbott said, "Yes, Mr. Wolcott, I remember."

We thought, How are we going to tell the new ones we remember?

Dr. Clement said, "In five minutes, the newly appointed instructors Will appear before the Committee. What principles, what rules Are to be laid down, what specifically is to be said to them?" Spinney was also knocking and hissing like a classroom radiator. Abbott stared out the window, and the golden leaves spoke, saying, In the voice of William Butler Yeats, for the Committee,

"When I was young, I had not given a penny for a song, Did not the poet sing it with such airs that one believed He had a sword upstairs."

And Henry Vaughan. "I saw Eternity The other night, like a great ring of pure and endless light."
"God keep me," Melville cried, "God keep me from ever
Completing anything. This whole book — "he meant Moby Dick — "Is a draught, Nay but the draught of a draught. Oh Time, Strength, Cash, and Patience!"

This was John Donne, darkly. "As our blood labours to beget spirits, as like souls as it can, Because such fingers need to knit that subtile knot which Makes us man: so must pure lovers souls descend to affections And to faculties, which sense may reach and apprehend, Else a great Prince in prison lies."

"Remember thee?" Said Shakespeare-Hamlet, "Aye, thou poor ghost, while memory Holds a seat in this distracted Globe: remember thee? Yea, from the table of my memory, I'll wipe away all trivial Fond records, all saws of books, all forms, all pressures past That youth and observation copied there, and thy commandment All alone shall live within the book and volume of my brain Unmixed with baser matter."

Dr. Clement looked at his watch, Spinney at some scribbled note-cards, and Rockwood at his hands, Anthropoid loose on his knees, wanting to do, do something.

The yellowing leaves fell, a few, then more, down the window, And September sun-slant patched the floor. Here Abbott Interrupted Donne, Melville, Shakespeare, Vaughan, Yeats, And his Faculty Committee on Teaching, because the door Opened, and the new teachers came in, to be told how to teach.

JOHN HOLMES Tufts College

[Prof. Holmes read this poem at the CEA banquet and annual meeting, Boston, Dec., 1952. He is a national vice-president of CEA and is author of The Double Root, Address to the Living, Map of My Country, and of the forthcoming volume of poems, The Symbols.]

possibly be as grief stricken as he pretends to be all through the poem? What sort of action is going on in the parts of the poem that have obviously survived the grief which certainly could not be so fierce after having been so thoroughly numbered? Is it moral to pretend great grief when it cannot exist? Is it moral to use your best friend's death as an excuse for a poem that you hope will sell many copies and make you famous? Isn't this a seriously Negativistic way of writing, utterly devoid of the AFFIRMATIVE AND HOPEFUL refusal to be maudlin which is the refusal to be maudlin which is the moral greatness of Baudelaire? Why could I not argue that there are times when the only Affirmation is to refuse, to destroy, to reject?

ject?

Morality Is Perception of Life
To touch on Yeats again:
O may the moon and sunlight seem
One inextricable beam
For if I triumph I must make men

For if I triumph I must make men mad.

I read a higher order of morality into that madness than I can into the moralist of easily claimed Positive Affirmations. In fact I am tempted to think that the art form is the true morality which is the passionate perception of life in its orders, and that what raises itself as the common voice of morality is only camouflage for a much lesser thing called RESPECTA-BILITY.

If you wish great teachers for

If you wish great teachers for the future madden them. Make literature live for them. Make the poem a poem for them, and not a document for citation in the Syntopicon. No school of education can do this for us. We are the teacher trainers.

JOHN CIARDI Harvard Univ.

Curricular Fictions and Realities

Realities

Having granted that something should be done to improve the professional preparation of teachers of English, one is confronted with the problem of what to do. I see no way to avoid discussions of curriculum. Curriculum is one of the most useful of academic fictions. It is as important in education as legal fictions are in the practice and theory of law. It is no less vital for being artificial.

Admittedly, it is also dangerous. People have been known to forget that fictions are fictitious. They forget that they themselves made the neat little bins and partitions. They think God made them. This way madness lies.

They think God made them. This way madness lies.

Not Easily Transferable
But curricula are necessary.
They are the means by which men in academic life become accessible to criteria external to themselves. Without them, nothing can be either right or wrong. Nothing can be even so much as undesirable. They are the mechanisms by which private virtues become public benefits. I suppose I am saying that curricula are educators' codes of morality. And there is some truth in this observation. Perhaps this is why curricula, like codes of morality, are not easily transferable. In the fruit grower's parlance, they "ship" badly. They rot in transit. The best curricula are home grown.

home grown.

New Fictions Needed

Teachers of English are in a loose sense all of one locality. Only (Continued on Page 5, Col. 3)

Hic Jacet: Grammar

Most of our thought about the English language has its origin in a pre-scientific era when written texts were the basis of study and the regimen was derived from inflected languages like Latin. Mod-ern linguistic scholars, instead, treat speech as language proper and writing as a secondary symbolism. When they say of a language that it has been "reduced to and writing as a secondary symbolism. When they say of a language that it has been "reduced to writing," they speak literally, having in mind the loss of essential signals of meaning in the loose correlation of visible to audible symbols. Thus they demand of an English grammar that it be objectively and inductively derived from spoken English. Such a factual exposition of the nature and structure of English is indispensible to ture of English is indispensible to the English teacher if he is to grapple successfully with the prob-lems of teaching reading and writ-

In his The Structure of English In his The Structure of English (N. Y.: Harcourt Brace, 1952), Professor Fries offers a scientific grammar of the English language. His procedure has been to examine English utterances according to methods accepted by linguistic scientists and published in such works as Bloomfield's Language and Bloch and Trager's Outline of Linguistic Analysis. Working with some 250,000 running words of reguistic Analysis. Working with some 250,000 running words of recorded conversations of speakers of standard English, he has tran-scribed and ordered his material, then set out to identify the grammatical signals within it. He begins by teasing his evidence in various maners, looking for a way in. That way he finds by assuming that an utterance "means" the response it elicits. This gives him two kinds of utterance units, those that start conversations and those that are responses to them, which he then tests and compares, looking for recurrent parts and wholes, elements which are like and unlike other elements.

A Radically Different Grammar

What he presents here is the resultant grammar, one which differs radically from what we are used to. He finds four major form classes. In order to fence out the effect of long use of grammatical terminology, he numbers these simply 1, 2, 3, and 4. They represent, in the main, our way of shuffling and interpreting the data of experience. They correspond roughly to the substantive, verb, adjective, and adverb; but large groups of words traditionally lumped un-der these heads are shifted out of the major form-classes and assigned to one or another of fifteen minor classes to which he assigns the letters A to O.

The four major classes are limited only by the number of items things, actions, qualities, etc.—which the users of the language choose to name; but the minor classes, which Fries calls "function words," add up to only 154 words that recur again and again. They make up a third of the bulk of the material. He calls them "function words," because they restorm in words," because they perform, in the main, functions in the structure of utterances like those per-formed by two other kinds of sig-nals: the positions of words and their changes in form. The former changes, limited in number also, apply almost entirely to the four major classes, identifying

Three Views of Grammar

them and relating them in utter-ances to the whole structure. The other main structural instrument other main structural matter of sa large number of patterns of position which also identify the major classes and relate them to each other in utterances. Lightly touched on in this treatment are intonation patterns (pitch, stress, and pause), which also have structural—that is, grammatical meaning.

To show the abstract nature of the whole machinery of the utter-ance, Fries has devised a relatively simple symbolism-simple compared with those commonly used by linguists communicating with each other—that displays the integrated patterns of the utterances showing the major classes in their favorite positions, with their for-mal markers and the function words which relate them to each

Strictly speaking, we have here the structure of the fifty hours of talk Professor Fries recorded. It will be checked and tested by others in the future as any scientific formulation is tested; but it is only fair to say that no valid criticism can be made of it that does not rise out of comparably rigor-ous examination of similar evi-dence. Assuming that the basic matters of English structure are covered, we have a new grammar of spoken English; and it is the grammar on which each native speaker frames his utterances. It is thus the grammar of his writ-ing as well as the grammar of his speech.

Grammar for the Layman

In the presentation of his findings, Fries deliberately denies him-self the economy of phonemic and morphemic statements used by linuists. He writes, rather, for the laymen who as teachers of English need to know the structure of our language but are not versed in the various fields of linguistics. He translates his examples into standard English spelling. He takes time to explain the genesis of his methods and their nature. And since his description is so at variance with traditional grammar, he analyses the pertinent definitions and explains his reasons for rein-terpreting or abandoning them. Thus he introduces us to the intel-lectual pleasures of linglistics—analysis and undertanding of our native language—without all its pains, and, I think, delivers a public coup-de-grace to a "grammar" which has been stumbling around looking for a place to die. Hic

DONALD J. LLOYD Wayne Univ

A Functional Approach

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Who Killed Grammar?

In The Structure of English Professor Fries continues his effort to establish grammar on a sci-entific basis. He states that "this entific basis. He states that "this study has not by any means solved all the problems" (p. 217n), and, therefore, the question arises: what problems have been solved? His research is premised upon a series of assumptions, and he has exhibited some evidence to indicate that he can call these assumptions fact

It is not clear that these assumptions are always well founded. The evidence, derived from wire taps on a telephone, apparently his own home telephone, is narrow in scope and subject to his own criteria for selection and elimination. Until the materials are made generally available and are then subjected to comparison with similar materials from other sources, the conclusions are interesting but not necessarily

The basic assumption is that spoken lanuage is the best source of grammatical patterns, despite the fact that a certain poverty of expression marks oral utterance as opposed to written language. Since native speakers of English are subto the tutelage of bookrained parents and teachers, the extent to which oral evidence alone is satisfactory is open to question. The most interesting and probably the most valuable part of this book in its discussion. part of this book is its discussion of the nature of responses in con-But this topic fully explored, and ultimately the problem is dismissed (p. 172) as not solvable in the terms of the thesis of this book. Any theory must deal with every form of expression, and to the extent that such elimination is necessary the theory breaks

Conscious Effort and Learning Pro-

The second assumption is that the structural patterns of a language are learned unconsciously by a native speaker. This assumption is untenable psychologicallu, and, indeed, Prof. Fries himself twice indicates that conscious effort is necessary in the learning process: "The words must be learned and reacted to as words' learned and reacted to as words" (p. 111) and "An attempt to list all of the various meanings in the 'modifier' structure . . . is often necessary to make a native speaker of English realize their great diversity" (pp. 218-219). The degree of the control of the of fluency and of structural nor-mality in the use of language at-tained by any one person depends upon such a variable set of factors that the assumption of "uncon-scious" attainment of language power is not borne out by facts reported by psychologists. Thorn-dike demonstrated that certain dike demonstrated dike demonstrated that certain "hard constructions" must be avoided in elementary education, and he based his graded series of readers upon his discoveries. The assumption throughout this book is avoided in elementary education, and he based his graded series of readers upon his discoveries. The assumption throughout this book is that all children and all adults possess an identical language skill. But the author does not press this point, since he is not concerned with the full scope of the learning and using problems.

It is an error of judgment on the part of the author to confuse his "pure research" with the application of his results to the teaching

Two Kinds of Grammar In 1952 the Rocky Mountain MLA at Fort Collins, Colorado, devoted one of its meetings to a discussion of Prof. Fries' Structure of English, as reported by T. M. Peare in The CEA Critic for January, 1953. I attended this meeting and consider Prof. Pearce's account of the conclusions drawn altogether accurate. But I should like to express the opinion that these conclusions were inconsequential and that the discussion reflected a failure to recognize the explosive lat-ent in Fries' book.

No Old Sweet Song

In the Fort Collins discussion it was apparently assumed that Fries has simply devised a new way of teaching traditional grammar, that most of the differences are superficial. For example, Fries numbers and letters, instead of names, for the different categories; he cuts the parts of speech down to four, distributing the oth ers among fifteen groups of func-tion words; he "defines words by context and usage rather than by any absolute concept of their na-ture and form;" and so on. The picture is a grammar that is per-haps a little more ingenious than have had, rather more up-todate and less stuffy, but that is essentially the same old comfortable traditional grammar.

Misunderstanding Invited I think this a mistaken view, though I concede that the mistake is easy to make and confess to have

process, for there is no teaching necessary if children of four (p. 57) attain "unconscious habita" For more than two thousand year teachers have been aware of the necessity for teaching language to children and adults who have no perceived the structural arrangements of words. All language items must be memorized or the location of their sources in diction aries and other reference work must be memorized. The seeming ly automatic use of language identical with the seemingly automatic playing of a musical instrument by a performer thereon. The degree of skill results from conscious effort.

The Meaning Not the Name The third assumption of this book is that language can be confied grammatically on the basis of structure or word forms apart from Indeed, the purpose of the book it to demonstrate the validity of this assumption. "The grammar of language," says Prof. Fries, "consists of the devices that sign structural meaning" (p. 56). The limitation of the ideational contact of the word grammar is of the word grammar is accompanied by a rejection of that definition of grammar which would a late this subject to the meaning inherent in the words and words. groups upon which a grammar formulated. Had Prof. Fries be

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ing made it on the first reading of Fries' book. The book invites misunderstanding, first in that it frequently makes comparison with traditional grammar, second in that in its terminology it presents the aspect of a neat and finished "system," third in that it has a good deal to say about its uses. Prof. Warfel, who, in a volume called Who Killed Grammar? attacks the book with his customary wit and vigor, may be pardoned for missing the point and arguing not whether it is true but whether it is simple and teachable.

Having taught traditional grammar for many years and Fries' grammar for five months, I am now persuaded that the two do not have the same end in view, are not even working with the same material, and hence are not in any way comparable. Fries' grammar (I use this term for convenience, being aware that Prof. Fries is but one of many scholars working along this line in English and other languages) is concerned essenalong this line in English and other languages) is concerned essentially with describing the structural signals by which English operates, the forms and the arrangements of forms used to distinguish questions from statements, nouns from adjectives, subjects from ob-jects, etc.; when it wanders into questions involving the meaning of categories, it does so inconsistently and ill-advisedly.

Traditional grammar, on the other hand, is concerned essentially with explicating a rational system

second objection to his scheme. The fact is that his system of classifying words depends upon a knowledge of their lexical meanings. For example, Class I words (presumably nouns) are assigned correlation forms (pronouns), but there is no explanation of how the user is no explanation of how the user is no explanation of how the user can refer to spinster or master without knowing the lexical meanings of those words (p. 119). Again, "lexical compatibility" (p. 223) determines whether nouns may be used as adjectives. In short, the author falls back upon the methodology of the grammar he seeks to supersede whenever his own system is inadequate. No one can use Prof. Fries' system without first memorizing the lexical

may be used as adjectives. In short, the author falls back upon the methodology of the grammar he seeks to supersede whenever his own system is inadequate. No one can use Prof. Fries' system without first memorizing the lexical meanings of many thousands of words.

This book sharpens our awareness of the unfair, wholesale condemnation of so-called formal grammar. Except in a few matters of divided usage and possibly a few grammatical items, there is nothing in the traditional grammar which this book eliminates. It is nothing in the traditional grammar has given. It would destroy the relationship between the grammar of English and that of other language. It would introduce chose where there has been some sense of order. The new grammar for Shilish and that of other languages where there has been some sense of order. The new grammar in a feeled to teach the complex and difficult and cumbersome system of modern chemistry, instead of the simpler. Nor is it yet as complicated as it will be. If Professor fare, and water, as anyone can large than the traditional grammar has done, if his work is not viewed as simply a system which this book eliminates. It is not interested in dense the properties of the substitutes new problems for old ones by eliminating a discussion of the language has discost must be present and the properties of the point is not survived as simply a system which this book eliminates. It would introduce chose the properties of the point is not survived as simply a system which this work is not viewed as simply a system which this work is not viewed as simply a system which this work is not viewed as simply a system which the substitutes new problems for old ones by eliminating a discussion of the language of the point is not survive. It is assuredly not interest as complicated as it will be. If Professor English work is not viewed as simply a system which the point is not with the subject. The point is not viewed as simply a system which view the minverse as composed of earth, air, fire, and water,

do with structural signals, it nas done so casually and amateurishly.

The Cup of Uniquity
There are other differences. Fries' grammar has absolutely no relevance to anything except English; traditional grammar has, if not universal relevance, at least relevance to the well-known Indo-Germanic languages. In traditional grammar, the protection of the system is important, and it has been protected not only by the ignoring of large areas of the language, but also by explicit dismissal of what falls outside the system as "idiomatic" and therefore not discussable; often "ellipsis" and historical development are relied on to explain away inconsistencies. In Fries' grammar the system has—or should have—no meaning except as it describes the structural signals of the language; if at any point something is seen in the language which the system does not acount for, then the system, not the language, must give way, must be modified or expanded until it is adequate for the recorded data.

til it is adequate for the recorded data.

til it is adequate for the recorded data.

The Question Is

Examples of these differences are readily found. Traditional grammar commonly divides sentences into various categories—declarative, interrogative, exclamatory, imperative. These are then defined on the basis of purpose or result, e.g.: "An interrogative sentence is a sentence that asks a question." In a textbook there may then follow an exercise in which the student is directed to pick out the questions and label them as interrogative sentences. Fries, however, is not concerned with defining the term "interrogative" or with training students to apply this term to questions; rather his concern is to describe how the patterns to which we respond as questions differ from those to which we respond as statements or requests. This proves complicated; in Structure of English it occupies thirty pages, which by no means exhaust the subject.

Complications Compounded If the survival of Fries' gram-

rience once said to me that no teacher can amount to much if he does not in some respect rise above his training. I can conceive of no program of training which I should be willing to trust completely. A few bad teachers would struggle through it somehow. On the other hand, I do not believe that we of the present generation of teachers are so bad as to defy improvement. Technical Procedures Not Enough The preparation of teachers seems easy only if one adopts an easy idea of what teachers should be. In fact, the words "teaching" and "research" are vulnerable to precisely the same abuse. Both words may be used to denote wholly unimaginative technical procedures. Procedural technique is necessary, of course, in all undertakings, but there is a sense in which both teacher and research man must, like Satan on his junket through Chaos, build their bridges under them as they go.

The teaching of teachers will fail if it depends upon pat methodologies isolated in special courses. Learning to teach English is inseparable from learning English. Knowing how to teach English is a special case of knowing English. Improve Graduate Courses in English is a

Improve Graduate Courses in Eng-

Exept for certain matters of educational organization, philosophy, and psychology—and these are basically the same for teachers of anything at the college level—I do not believe that we have much to gain by separate courses in pedagogy. Certainly nothing is to be

march, 1958

THE CEA CRITIC

Page FIVE

and made it on the first reading of Fries' book. The book invites misguistic concepts involving the
guistic concepts involving the
meaning of categories; when it has
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as a spect of a neat and finished
"Mystem," third in that it has a
good deal to say about its uses.
Fries' grammar has absolutely no
relevance to the view of
the preparation of teachers of English for their various assignments
will require the careful development of some new curricular fictions. I believe that these dismust emerge from local, regional,
and national agreements and
disputes.

I do not expect that these dismust emerge from local, regional,
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so.

I am saying, I suppose, that just possibly there may be something wrong with us. I am saying also that there is nothing wrong with us that anyone else can fir. We may need some new fictions. If so, we must invent them ourselves. And if these fictions do not reflect the best wisdom of the past fifty years of careful scholarship, then in my opinion they will be good for nothing. On the other hand, they might well reflect also a livelier sense for the qualities of mature humanity than we have seemed at times to possess. times to possess.

HENRY W. SAMS Univ. of Chicago

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Proposed CEA Five Point Program

Basis for Professional Code

Although the Proposed CEA Five Point Program is couched in terms certain to make it mean many things to many men, I am happy to subscribe to its spirit and to look forward to the criticism and discussion which will, I hope, eventually bring about its establishment as the basis of a code of English teaching practices.

To work out such a code is to

achieve much more than just another set of pious resolutions. Rather it is to take an important step toward resolving the increas ingly bewildering situation of the English teacher in present-day education.

T. H. Huxley, Victor

English teaching is not attracting the best minds. The sciences are in the ascendency, and the liberal arts are the stepchildren of the curriculum. Most good students, even when they are willing to accept the underpaid work of college teaching, prefer to enter the scien-tific field, where the demand for teachers is greater and where the chances for additional pay through consulting fees and part-time business or industrial connections are greater.

Enough Candidates or Talent

At the same time, there are plenty of persons who want to teach English, far more than there are jobs available. This would seem to be a favorable situation, but in reality it is not. From my observations, much of this prospective teaching material is mediocre or worse, consisting too largely of what I term "unregen-erate English majors," i.e., students who cannot make up their minds what field to enter and who drift into English simply because they like to read. But after eliminating these drones and the rest of the obvious incompetents, we still have enough candidates of talent to fill our needs. The joker is that, despite their promise, most of these last, through lack of training, are woefully unprepared to teach.

The Final Turn of the Screw

The final turn of the screw has yet to be experienced, but we won't have long to wait. Within a couple of years, we are told by the President's Committee for Higher Education, some 5 million students will be in college, as compared to slightly more than half that num-ber today.

All of these students will pre-sumably take English courses. Who

is going to teach them competently, is going to teach them competently, in a manner which will not only give satisfaction to the profession but also to a public still a bit suspicious of the "longhairs" and "eggheads" they feel to constitute the personnel of all English departments.

In the present and future difficulties of English teaching, one point seems clear, viz: Much of our dilemma is of our own making as a result of our failure to organize ourselves in a professional man-

Though technically employees, teachers have always liked to consider themselves professionals, along with the more generally selfemployed professions of medicine, dentistry, or law. And yet, through the lack of a national accrediting body, we have allowed persons to enter our ranks with almost none of the formal qualifying procedures or the formal qualifying procedures necessary to entrance into other professions. As it stands at present, a candidate for a college teaching post need only have a degree of some sort.

Standards Wanted

We have as yet established no standards to ensure that the degreeholder, whatever his degree, his scholarly attainments, or his personal attractiveness, can teach. Medicine, dentistry, the ministry, the law, and even accounting all require supervised training periods before the admission of a candidate to general practice. These profes-sions also require aspirants to appear before character and other committees as a condition of certi-fication. Why should not the fication. teaching profession do likewise?

Point Two of the Five Point Program includes the following statement: "Training to teach should be a part of our professional preparation. The training should include supervision of beginners by professionally competent advisers. It seems to me that this statement could well become the basis for the foundation of a required interneship for all beginning teachers of college English. We are in a particularly fortunate position to es-tablish such interneships, partly because of the large number of didates for the teaching of English and partly because of the large concentration of students in freshman and sophomore English courses

Specific Proposals

Graduate study for a degree in English should include one term of study of English grammar and one term of literary forms, including the mechanics of poetry. Candidates for certification as English teachers should be required to pass a comprehensive examination in grammar and mechanics before being admitted to professional standing.

Upon completion of the M.A. degree, teaching candidates would be eligible to begin a two-year interneship in any English depart-ment accredited by the national supervisory body. This interne-ship would occupy about fifteen hours per week during the school vear.

Further graduate work could be pursued during the interne period, but such study should be limited to prevent the overtaxing of the candidate's health, efficiency, or enthusiasm. Graduate course quirements could be somewhat reduced to allow for the pursuance of an interneship.

Seminar on Teaching Techniques

The first year of interneship require the auditing of would in composition and sophoclasses more literature, the grading of some student themes, consultation with students on course problems, and attendance at a regularly conducted seminar (not a methods course!) on teaching techniques in composition and literature. Occasional supervised classroom teaching could also be included.

The second year would require

Don't Tie the CEA Down!

to rise over the proposed adoption of the Five Point Program, I hope that we shall not overlook the fact that the most important question does not concern the validity of the

particular proposals.

The truly important issue is whether the CEA should have a "program" at all. Should it go on record as favoring certain trends teaching of English and thereby implicitly opposing others?

I feel most emphatically that it should not. The CEA should be an informal association of college teachers of English, dedicated no specific programs, ruled by no specific creed, but generally aiming improvement of its members' teaching.

Remain an Open Forum

This improvement can be assisted through the exchange among its members of practical pedagogical suggestions growing out of their experience in teaching and their scholarly research. The CEA has great value as an open forum for mutual encouragement, airing of complaints, and swapping of pet ideas. Its duty is to assist its members rather than to campaign for specific policies. To tie the

In the controversy that is sure | CEA to a particular program and to use it to exert pressure is to destroy its principal merit.

No Creed Needed Furthermore, I think that warning against the proposed program is needed. As the Five Point rogram is phrased, it sounds innocuous. But it injects into the CEA controversial educational, social, and political concepts.

These are wholly welcome when they come as personal opinions from individual members. accepted as a creed by the CEA as a whole, they will be dangerous to the association's very life, since they will divide member from mem-We need no Thirty-Nine arber. ticles; they will only establish criteria for heresy.

Let us, then, keep the CEA tolcrant, united, informal, and delightfully disorganized. Let us blunder along, slowly, apparently aimlessly, pleasantly. Let us keep the CRITIC as an organ of opinion without a policy. If we stick to our task—the interchange of specificides characteristical. fic ideas about subject matter and methods in college English—we can But a particular achieve much. program will only hinder us.

CURTIS DAHL Wheaton College

supervision, of not more than two sections of composition or literature. Admittedly, freshman com-position is difficult to teach and should be entrusted only to experienced experts. But what institution can afford to have a staff of senior men large enough to handle all of its freshman English sections?

A carefully trained and supervised group of internes would serve at least as well as the body of inexperienced, harassed, and usually bored Ph.D. candidates who are assigned to most of our composition sections at the present time

Successful Candidates Certified

A candidate successfully completing his interneship would be certified by the institution where he performed his training duties. would then be examined for character and general competence by a committee appointed by the national accrediting body and, upon passing this examination, would be eligible for full-time college teaching. It would not be necessary for this certification to be made a legal requirement, because a carefully worked-out interneship program program would soon gain recognition and would probably become as im-portant a factor as an advanced degree in the hiring of new

Obviously, there are many problems involved in this program. For one thing, the machinery of a national accrediting body would be difficult to establish and maintain. For another, not every aspirant to the teaching profession could find a post as a teacher in training.

But the medical, dental, and legal professions have met both of these difficulties and we can do the same. If marginal students are discouraged by stricter requirements for interneships, it is all to the good of the profession, and it the regular teaching, under careful would be a real kindness to the less

gifted to discourage them before they invest too much time and money in further education.

Discussion Invited

Altogether, the foregoing is only the sketchiest of proposals, but I am sticking my neck out in the hope that CEA members might be aroused to discussion and that out of the refined wisdom and experience of the CEA we might eventually establish demonstrable professional standards leading to a classroom achievement which will be the pride of teachers, students, and general public alike.

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CEA Institute University of Florida

Gainesville, June 25-26, 1953 This Institute extends CEA efforts toward increased understanding and cooperation between the liberal arts and executive management. Held in conjunction with the annual conference of the American Society for Engineering Education and as part of the Uni-versity of Florida's centennial, it will consider, among its central questions, the rôle of humanistic studies for the engineer who ultimately assumes executive responsi-bilities in business, industry, gov-ernment, defense, and the social services.

A pre-Institute get-together is planned for the evening of June 24. "Alumni" of the 1952 CEA Institute, the Johnny Victor Theater session on liaison, and other CEA-sponsored liaison activities will be glad to initiate newcomers, who will be most welcome. Hazing will be mild.

The schedule will include generations.

al sessions, group discussions, and social interludes and excursions.
Participants will be college teachers of English and other humanities and liberal arts and sciences, ties and liberal arts and sciences, representatives of executive management and of university administration, engineering educators, engineering graduates in executive posts, textbooks publishers, and the educational press.

Gracious letters of invitation have come from Dr. J. Hillis Miller, President of the University of Florida, and Dean Joseph Weil, of its College of Engineering Dean

Florida, and Dean Joseph Well, of its College of Engineering. Dean Weil has been very helpful. Offi-cers of the American Society for Engineering Education, too, have cooperated. The Southeastern College English Association is a leading spaces.

College English Association is a leading sponsor.

Prof. Harry Warfel, coordinator at the University of Mossachuetts CEA Institute, is staff associate heading up the committee on arrangements. Other members are L. P. Boone, W. C. Childers, W. A. Clark, R. J. Cutler, J. T. Fain, C. A. Robertson, D. P. Veith, R. B. Vowles, J. H. Wise.

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story.
For further details, write to Prof. Warfel.

Bulletin Board

The New England Association of Teachers of English will meet in Portland, Me., Fri. and Sat., Apr. 17-18. CEA members are cordially invited to attend. Miss Frances Hueston, Deering High School, Portland, is the conference chairman. The highly successful meeting she arranged several years ago is ample assurance that those who attend the forthcoming. years ago is ample assurance that those who attend the forthcoming NEATE sessions will be richly re-warded. Dr. Marion C. Sheridan, NEATE president, voices the hope that more college people will join their secondary school colleagues in such meetings.

A list, with employment qualifi-cations, of ACLS Scholars and ad-vanced Graduate Fellows, 1952-53, vancea Graquate Fellows, 1952-53, is being distributed through the ACLS headquarters, 1219 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington 6, D. C. Each individual listed is designated, not by name, but by number.

The Fourth Annual Round Table Meeting on Linguistics and Language Teaching will be held at the Institute of Languages and Linguistics, School of Foreign Services, Georgetown Univ., 1719 Massachusetts Ave., N. W., Waslington, D. C., Apr. 10-11. There will be three panel discussion sessions, on language and language-ability testing, on the acoustic and engin-eering approach to languages, lin-

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(Continued from Page 2, Col. 3) purposes. Nor was I too much to blame, for I had done all that I could. And the boys? I could not blame them either; they were sim-ply unready for masterpieces though they were very good people indeed.

Then doubts began. Then doubts began. During those nine hours when we had struggled with The Divine Comedy, we might have been reading something else less exalted but really, for my boys, more rewarding. In doing my duty proudly, had I been wasting their time?

Accept the Universe?

It was hard for a proud person to confess that he was not omnipotent, that his subject was important and lovely yet not quite the whole of art, knowledge, and wisdom. It was hard to admit that if chaos and old night were to be held back, I and my subject would need help from colleagues in other departments and from all of the others who lived in the non-campus world. It was just about impossi-ble for me to confess that neither I nor my subject nor my students could transcend the limitations of

grounds.
Yet there was the young colleague who taught well but without much straining. He said, "Literature should be taken seriously—but not too seriously." He also said by inference, You must take yourself seriously—but not too seriously. I am still somewhat ahort of his easy and confident wisdom, but his is the direction in which I am trying to go. And of course I am excited about the possibility of discovering "reasonably accessible classics," because I know that I cannot "make" anything interesting. Having moved over to the comic rôle, I'll have to stay within my rôle, I'll have to stay within my own limitations. And give literature a chance.

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lished in The CEA Critic.
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English Association. The decision of the judges will be

ESSAY TOPIC: What English Departments Should Do for Students Not English Majors

Length: Not over 1200 words.

(It is suggested that essays discuss the aims, purposes, desired results, and the means to achieve them. They should consider the study of books and of writing.)

Middle Atlantic CEA

Program, spring meeting, Sat., May 2, Institute of Languages and Linguistics, Georgetown Univer-sity, 1917 Mass. Ave., N.W.,

Linguistics,
sity, 1917 Mass. Ave., N.W.,
Washington, D. C.
Morning session (10:30-11:45 a.
m.) George Trager, "The Field of
Linguistics;" Archibald Hill, "Linguistics and Literature."

Afternoon session (2-3.30 p. m.)
Rusiness Meeting. 2. Panel

1. Business Meeting. 2. Panel Discussion: "The Relationship be-tween Linguistics and Courses in tween Linguistics and Courses in English Composition and Literature." Chm.: James Craig La-Drière (The Catholic Univ. of America). Speakers: Franklin D. Cooley (Univ. of Maryland); James Walker, Ford Faculty Fellow; Donald Lloyd (Wayne Univ.). Prof. Cooley's subject: "What Does the English Teacher Seek from Linguistic Training?" Dr. Walker's is "What Is the Linguistic Training of the English Teacher Seek

tic Training of the English Tea-chers?" Prof. Lloyd's is (tentative-ly) "Some Implications of Linguistic Studies for the Teaching of Courses in English Compositon, Language and Literature.

For those who wish it, luncheon is available at noon at the Cafe of the Hotel Martinique (1211 16th St., N. W.).

Further information from Prof. Charlotte Crawford, Howard Univ., regional president and program chairman.

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Chicago CEA

March 5, at Roosevelt College, with Kendall Taft presiding, a planning session for spring meet-ing. Participants: Wallace Doug-las, Northwestern; Mollie Cohen,

las, Northwestern; Mollie Cohen, Robert Frank, Illinois Tech.; Benjamin Lease, Ernest Van Keuren, Univ. of Ill. at Chicago; Charles Kaplan, Thomas Sandke, Roosevelt; Henry Sams, Univ. of Chicago; Max Goldberg.

Chicago area CEA meeting, Sat., May 2, Univ. of Chicago, Soc. Sci. Hall, Room 122. Morning and afternoon sessions, 10 to 4. General Topic: "What Is a Good Introductory Literature Course?" CEA membership not required. All coltory Literature Course?" CEA membership not required. All col-lege English teachers are cordially invited. Registration fee: \$1.00. Officers: Kendall Taft, pres.; Robert Frank, v. p.; Ben Lease, sec'y-

CEA Regional

The annual meeting of the Tex-as College Conference of Teachers of English will be held, in conjunc-tion with the South-Central Re-naissance Conference, at the Univ. of Texas, Austin, Apr. 24-25. A CEA breakfast is scheduled for Sunday, Apr. 26. For details, write to Prof. Margaret Lee Wiley, Sec'y-Treas., SC CEA, East Texas State College, Commerce, Tex.

FORM AND IDEA:

by M. W. Bloomfield & E. W. Robbins

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The Macmillan Company

Directions

To be considered, all entries must be postmarked no later than midnight, May 17, 1953. Essays should be submitted in sealed envelopes bearing the statement, "My essay submitted to the College English Association Prize Contest, 1953," followed by the signature of the contestant, the name and address of his college, and his own address.

Essays must be accompanied by a statement on official sta-tionery from the head of the English Department, or other college official, that the contestant is a full-time junior or senior student in good standing at his institution, and not an English major. All manuscripts must be double-spaced typescript, and each page, upper left, must bear the name and address of the author.

Entries should be addressed to: Executive Secretary, College English Association, Box 472, Amherst, Mass.

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